

First record of Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* for Libya

Jens Hering

Première mention du Vanneau éperonné *Vanellus spinosus* pour la Libye. Le 4 janvier 2011, un Vanneau éperonné *Vanellus spinosus* adulte a été photographié au sud-est de l'oasis Al Kufra dans le désert libyque. L'oiseau était en train de se nourrir en compagnie de sept Vanneaux huppés *V. vanellus*. Cette observation, la première pour le pays, est à >900 km de la zone où l'espèce niche régulièrement, en Égypte.

On 4 January 2011, during a count of wintering birds in an area of circular agricultural zones south-east of Al Kufra Oasis in the Libyan Desert (24°07'N 23°20'E), an adult Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* was photographed. It was foraging on a dry ploughed stubble field with seven Northern Lapwings *V. vanellus* (Figs. 1–3). The birds were shy and flushed at a distance of at least 200 m.

This is the first record of Spur-winged Lapwing in Libya. The location of this sighting is >900 km from the nearest area where the species breeds regularly, in the Nile Valley in Egypt (Goodman & Meininger 1989, Wiersma 1996). West of the Nile Valley it is also a breeding resident in the eastern Libyan Desert, in Wadi el Natrun,

the Faiyum and Wadi el Rayan. Outside the breeding season, there have been sightings at the Dakhla and Kharga oases (Goodman *et al.* 1986, Goodman & Meininger 1989). Further west, to date there have been no records of this species in Tunisia and Algeria (Isenmann & Moali 2000, Isenmann *et al.* 2005).

The Northern Lapwings on passage in Kufra are also noteworthy in a Libyan context given that there are no previous records for this region of the country. To date there have been only a few winter records from the Fezzan in the Libyan Sahara (Cowan 1982, 1983, Brehme *et al.* 2002). In addition there have been sightings from the eastern Libyan Desert in Egypt (Goodman *et al.* 1986, Goodman & Meininger 1989).



Figure 1. Flock of Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* with Spur-winged Lapwing *V. spinosus*, Al Kufra, Libya, 4 January 2011 (Jens Hering)

Vanneau éperonné *Vanellus spinosus* en compagnie de Vanneaux huppés *V. vanellus*, Al Kufra, Libye, 4 janvier 2011 (Jens Hering)



Figures 2–3. Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*, near Al Kufra, Libya, 4 January 2011 (Jens Hering)
 Vanneau éperonné *Vanellus spinosus*, près d'Al Kufra, Libye, 4 janvier 2011 (Jens Hering)

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Heidi Hering and Hassan Mohamed Ali for their support in the field. I am also grateful to Stefan Brehme and Paul Isenmann for useful comments and to David Conlin for translating the note into English. Optical instruments were kindly provided by the Sport Optics Carl Zeiss company.

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Received 24 February 2011; revision accepted 30 October 2011.